Increased Funding for Protection Programs

All ground water protection programs reviewed by the committee indicated a lack of adequate funding, which constrained the development and implementation of a comprehensive ground water protection program. Although recent efforts through the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act have been helpful in initial planning, increased federal financial support is needed to accelerate and assure the development of self-supporting state and local ground water management programs.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Information Base

Hydro geologic Information

Protection of ground water requires a sound and appropriately designed lydrogeologic information base to determine on a continuing basis what ground water contamination problems may exist. Data are also needed to Dredict future threats.

The committee encourages state and local programs to obtain the necessary lydrogeological information for each region. The program should be long term :o obtain physical and chemical information aimed at developing a quantitative inderstanding of the occurrence and the quality and dynamics of the resource, :ogether with the types, extent, and sources of potential contaminants. The data hould be collected and formatted to assist in the area's ground water manage-nent program so that the program's effectiveness over time can be evaluated. The USGS should expand its technical assistance and information-gathering >rograms to assist states in this effort. State and local organizations should be-some familiar with and incorporate appropriate data available from federal nformation systems, sucb as those of the USGS and the Department of Agricul-ure, relating to hydrology, soils, and chemical use.

types of Data and Data Management Systems

Recent advances in electronic data storage and processing technology lave enabled the collection and management of large quantities of data. This has often encouraged data gathering without adequate assessment of ts usefulness and without conversion of the data into readily usable formats or analyses, policy-making, and management.

The committee recommends that both state and federal information pro-ams be carefully designed to emphasize collection and storage of data that can